

STATEMENT OF REASONS

WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

CHAPTER 4

FURBEARING ANIMAL HUNTING OR TRAPPING SEASONS

W.S. § 23-1-302(a)(i) directs and empowers the Commission to fix seasons and bag limits, open, shorten or close seasons on any species or sex of wildlife except predatory animals, predacious birds, protected animals and protected birds.

W.S. § 23-2-303 provides for the trapping of furbearing animals, license requirements to trap, tagging requirements for traps, types of traps and time periods for checking traps.

Section 3, Hunting or Trapping Seasons. Trapping Area 602, Little Popo Agie, has been removed from the list of limited trapping areas for marten. Beaver trapping area closures have been created for Area 503, Woods Landing; Area 504, Lake Owen; and Area 505, Sheep Mountain. Limited quota beaver trapping areas 601-605 are being deleted.

Section 4, Furbearing Animal Hunting or Trapping Area Descriptions. Edits have been made to this Section to reflect the addition of limited quota beaver trapping areas 503-505. Trapping areas 601-605 have also been deleted from this Section. The Department is currently evaluating several public trail areas within the Bridger Teton National Forest (BTNF) in Teton County for closure to trapping of furbearing animals. Department and BTNF personnel are evaluating public use data to determine possible trails for closure to furbearing animal trapping due to public use frequency and the presence of dogs using these areas. Public use data has not been completely evaluated at the time of this draft regulation filing. Specific area trapping closures will be made available at all Department public meetings for this regulation.

Section 11, Trapping of Non-target Wildlife; Disposition of Furbearing Animals at the Trap Site. Clarification has been provided regarding non-target wildlife caught in traps and required reporting of all non-target wildlife caught or injured in such a way that may result in death of the animal or if the animal has been killed.

Minor grammatical and formatting edits have been incorporated to provide additional clarity but do not change the intent of the rules and regulations.